

with the pre-formed sheet material connecting the bases, cooling the resin in the mold cavities to form molded fastener elements integrally molded with and extending from the bases; and

thereafter, pulling the molded fastener elements from the mold cavities to separate the fastener product from the mold roll.

85 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the mold roll has its mold cavities arranged to form longitudinally continuous, spaced apart bands of loop-engageable fastener elements.

86 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material is elastically stretchable.

AI 87 (New). The method of claim 86 in which the pre-formed sheet material is elastically stretchable in only a transverse direction.

88 (New). The method of claim 86 in which the elastically stretchable material includes at least a textile component.

89 (New). The method of claim 88 in which the textile component comprises a stretchable nonwoven material that defines hook-engageable loops.

90 (New). The method of claim 89 in which the nonwoven material comprises a needled batt of staple fibers which has been stretched substantially in one direction only while the batt has been allowed to neck-in in the cross machine direction, with a binder stabilizing the material in said stretched state, whereby the material is substantially elastically stretchable in only one direction corresponding to the direction in which it has not been stretched during manufacture.

91 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material is substantially inelastic in all directions.

92 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the resin is introduced in discrete amounts spaced apart in a machine direction to form bases in the form of isolated islands.

93 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the molded fastener elements are molded to have crooks that individually point in a given respective direction.

94 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the bases comprise longitudinally continuous bands of the resin, with longitudinally exposed regions of sheet material therebetween.

95 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the fastener elements each have a molded stem that tapers outwardly to narrower dimension from a relatively wide width at its base.

96 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material is stretchable in one direction and relatively inextensible in a perpendicular direction.

97 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material comprises a layer of thermoplastic elastomer.

98 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material has at least one side which defines hook-engageable loops exposed for engagement by fastener elements.

99 (New). The method of claim 98 in which the side which defines hook-engageable loops lies on the same side of the pre-formed sheet material as, and closely adjacent to, the bases.

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100 (New). The method of claim 84 in which the pre-formed sheet material comprises multiple layers, including a pre-formed upper layer to which the bases are laminated.

101 (New). The method of claim 100 in which the pre-formed sheet material includes a lower, elastically stretchable layer.

102 (New). The method of claim 84 wherein the resin-free region of pre-formed sheet material is wider than the bases adjoining the resin-free region.

AI 103 (New). The method of claim 102 wherein said resin-free region is between about two and five times wider than the adjoining bases. --
